



CITY OF ATLANTA

BOARD OF ETHICS

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RESOLUTION URGING THE ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL TO SUSTAIN THE MAYOR'S VETO OF ORDINANCE 06-O-0980

WHEREAS in 2002, the Atlanta City Council amended the City's Code of Ethics to prohibit city officials and employees from accepting gifts and things of value from persons doing business with the City or seeking official action from the City;

WHEREAS this prohibition on gifts is intended to assure citizens that city officials and employees are placing the public interests of the City above their own financial and personal interests and to ensure transparency in the dealings between city officials with those doing business or seeking to do business with the City ;

WHEREAS on May 15, 2006, the Atlanta City Council passed Ordinance 06-O-0980 ("the gift ordinance") permitting unfettered discretion to all city elected officials, appointed board members, and city employees to accept gifts of hospitality, private meals, and gifts of tickets to sporting and entertainment events;

WHEREAS the gift ordinance was passed without the advice, consent or meaningful input of the City Ethics Officer or the City Board of Ethics;

WHEREAS the gift ordinance establishes no reporting requirements and no restrictions on the source of the gifts, their frequency, or their accumulated value and creates potential conflicts of interest and may create the appearance of impropriety; and

WHEREAS Mayor Shirley Franklin today vetoed the gift ordinance, stating that the ordinance is bad public policy and moves away from her efforts to instill a culture of ethics in city government;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Ethics opposes Ordinance 06-O-0980 because it would permit city officials and city employees to accept gifts of meals and tickets from persons seeking favorable action from the City, without accountability to the public and without reasonable limitation or disclosure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Ethics of the City of Atlanta supports the Mayor's veto of Ordinance 06-O-0980 and urges the City Council to vote to sustain it.

Adopted May 18, 2006

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